

Listing of the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An isolated protein produced by a method comprising:
culturing a host cell into which has been introduced a DNA expression vector comprising the following operably linked elements:
a transcription promoter;
a DNA segment ~~comprising~~ consisting of a nucleotide sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 1 from nucleotide 76 to nucleotide 417; and
a transcription terminator, wherein said host cell expresses the polypeptide encoded by said DNA segment; and
recovering said protein.
2. The protein of claim 1, wherein the host cell is a mammalian cell.
3. The protein of claim 1, wherein the host cell has had a second DNA vector introduced into it, wherein said second expression vector comprises the following operably linked elements:
a transcription promoter;
a DNA segment encoding an endoprotease; and
a transcription terminator,
wherein said host cell expresses the polypeptide encoded by the DNA segment comprising a nucleotide sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 1 from nucleotide 76 to nucleotide 417; and said DNA segment encoding said endoprotease.

Claims 4 and 5 (cancelled).

Claims 6 – 15 (withdrawn).